

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 14-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to use of the term "close proximity" in claim 14. Claims 1, 5, 8, 11-14, 16 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barber in view of Alexander, and claims 7, 9-10, 15 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barber in view of Alexander and further in view of Fawcett.

Claims 2-4 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Acknowledgement was made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and the Examiner noted that certified copies of the two priority applications have not yet been filed. The drawings filed with the application were accepted by the Examiner.

In accordance with this amendment, applicant has elected to accept the allowable subject matter in order to expedite issuance of his patent.

Thus in accordance with this amendment, allowable dependent claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 1. Rejected

claim 1 together with rejected claims 5 and 7-20 have been canceled (claim 6 was previously canceled) so that only allowable claim 2 and allowable dependent claims 3-4 remain pending in the application.

Dependent claims 3 and 4 each depend on now-allowable base claim 2 and therefore are likewise allowable.

The amendments made herein clearly do not raise a new issue that would require further search or consideration by the Examiner. To the contrary, all of the rejected claims have been canceled and allowable dependent claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form so that claim 2, together with claims 3-4 which depend on claim 2, have been placed in allowable form.

As noted by the Examiner in the last Office Action, claims 2-4 would be allowable if claim 2 were placed in independent form, and thus the amendments made herein are consistent with the recommendation made in the Office Action. Accordingly, entry of this amendment is believed proper under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and entry of this amendment together with passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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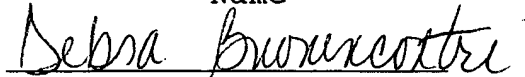
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November 4, 2004

Date